



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, JR.
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

ORDER OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DATE: January 24, 2018
TO: All Concerned
FROM: H. "Butch" Browning, Jr.
State Fire Marshal
RE: Order to ban the sale, offers to sell, distribution, possession, ignition, or any use of aerial luminaries in the State of Louisiana.

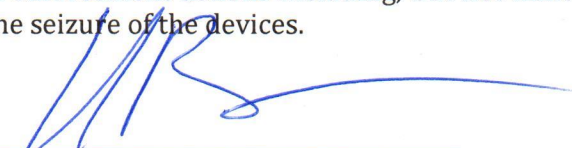
Aerial luminaries, most commonly known as sky lanterns, pose a potentially catastrophic risk when they descend back to earth by increasing the threat of fire to commercial and residential structures, watercraft, forests, farms, and wildlands.

These devices, which are constructed of thin rice paper that become airborne when inflated by an open flame heating source, have been responsible for significant and costly fires around the world, destroying a number of structures and killing livestock and wildlife. Due to the light materials used to construct these devices, they become completely controlled by wind direction after lifting off, making any prediction as to where they will descend virtually impossible.

Because of the high probability of damage and/or injuries involving the use of aerial luminaries, effective immediately and in accordance with La. R.S. 40:1563, et seq., it shall be unlawful to sell, offer for sale, distribute, possess, ignite, or otherwise use aerial luminaries, commonly known as sky lanterns, Hawaii lanterns, Knogming Lanterns, Chinese Lanterns, sky candles, fire balloons, or flying luminaries in the State of Louisiana.

Please note that as used in this Order, "aerial luminary" means an airborne paper lantern containing a small candle, or other open flame device for fuel, that heats the air inside the lantern, causing it to rise into the air and remain airborne until the candle or other device extinguishes, or is caused to descend by environmental effects, such as wind.

This Order shall remain in effect until further notice. Violation of this Order shall result in criminal and/or civil enforcement actions including, but not limited to, monetary fines, imprisonment, and/or the seizure of the devices.



SIGNATURE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL